

## Message Text

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ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 EB-07 NSAE-00  
USIA-15 TRSE-00 ERDA-07 CIAE-00 COME-00 /044 W  
-----270404Z 056555 /17

R 261349Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4414

UNCLAS BERN 2396

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: MILI SZ

SUBJ: MUNITIONS CONTROL APPLICATION CASE NO 37367, GRUENIG  
AND ELMINGER AG

REF: A) STATE 109826; B) 76 BERN 2933

1. EMBASSY HAS CONTACTED MR KURT GRUENIG OF  
GRUENIG AND ELMIGER AG, INDUSTRIESTRASSE 22,  
6102 MALTERS, SWITZERLAND ON REFTEL A LICENSE  
APPLICATION. GRUENIG INFORMED US THAT REVOLVERS IN QUESTION ARE  
DESTINED FOR COMMERCIAL RESALE  
IN SWITZERLAND TO RETAIL OUTLETS AND POLICE FORCES.  
HE SAID THESE WEAPONS WILL NOT BE RE-EXPORTED.  
GRUENIG STRESSED THAT SUCH WEAPONS CANNOT BE  
PURCHASED IN SWITZERLAND WITHOUT A POLICE PERMIT.

2. GRUENIG AND ELMIGER PREVIOUSLY APPLIED TO  
IMPORT 1,000 CALIBER .38 AND 50 CALIBER .41 REVOLVERS  
INTO SWITZERLAND FROM US IN MID-1976 (REFTEL B).  
EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE WHETHER THIS APPLICATION  
WAS APPROVED BY OFFICE OF MUNITIONS CONTROL.

3. GRUENIG AND ELMIGER AG IS WELL-ESTABLISHED,  
SMALL COMPANY IMPORTING AND MANUFACTURING SPORTS  
WEAPONS. FOUNDED IN 1943 BY WORLD-CHAMPION MARKSMAN  
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WALTER LIENHARD, IT WAS TAKEN OVER BY KURT GRUENIG AND HEINZ  
ELMIGER IN 1963. COMPANY PAYMENT RECORD CONSIDERED GOOD BY  
CREDIT SOURCES; COMPANY HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED BY  
EMBASSY BERN COMMERCIAL SECTION AS BUSINESS CONTACT  
FOR US FIRMS SINCE 1968.

4. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED COPIES OF SWISS IMPORT

CERTIFICATES (IC) NUMBERED 215506 AND 215507, BOTH DATED FEB 21, 1977, FROM SWISS DIVISION OF COMMERCE. THESE VERIFY PARA 1 REFTEL A INFO. DIVISION OF COMMERCE ALSO PROVIDED COPY OF SWISS IC NUMBER 215508 DATED FEB 21, BUT NOT MENTIONED REFTEL A, WHICH APPLIES FOR PERMISSION FOR GRUENIG AND ELMIGER TO IMPORT 200 CALIBER .44 MAGNUM REVOLVERS FROM SMITH AND WESSON.

5. SWISS IC IS BASED ON BILATERAL AGREEMENT CONCLUDED WITH US AND IS CONSIDERED RELIABLE GUARANTEE OF SWISS GOVT CONTROL OVER TRANSACTIONS OF THIS TYPE. AGREEMENT PROHIBITS RE-EXPORTS WITHOUT PRIOR USG APPROVAL. WITH SWISS IC COVERING TRANSACTION, EMBASSY SEES NO REASON NOT APPROVE REFTEL A LICENSE APPLICATIONS. DAVIS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SMALL ARMS, EXPORT LICENSES, END USE CHECKS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION MC  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 109826, 76 BERN 2933  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009